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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/670,646	09/27/2000	Larry A. Brocious	EN999-069	7162
30743	7590	05/25/2004		
WHITHAM, CURTIS & CHRISTOFFERSON, P.C. 11491 SUNSET HILLS ROAD SUITE 340 RESTON, VA 20190				
			EXAMINER LERNER, MARTIN	
			ART UNIT 2654	PAPER NUMBER 5

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/670,646

Applicant(s)

BROCIOUS ET AL.

Examiner

Martin Lerner

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2654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 to 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2 and 11-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 to 10 and 14 to 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1 to 11 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 7, recites "said speech recognition means", which lacks antecedent basis. Should "said speech recognition means" be --said speech recognition engine--? Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Logan et al.*

Regarding independent claim 1, *Logan et al.* discloses a system for controlling an audio player with voice commands, comprising:

"a context-based audio queue ordered based on contents of a page being audibly read by the multi-modal browser to a user" – information available in text form from news sources, libraries, etc. may be converted to compressed audio format by conventional speech synthesis; host server 101 stores web page data 141 which is

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made available to player 103 by means of the HTML interface 128 ("contents of a page being audibly read by the multi-modal browser to the user") (column 5, lines 16 to 45: Figure 1); each voice or text program segment preferably includes a sequencing file which contains the identification of high-lighted passages and hypertext anchors within the program content (column 5, lines 6 to 15: Figure 5); a selections file 351 is a stack mechanism ("context-based audio queue") containing ProgramID numbers of a program segment for hyperlinked material (column 30, lines 20 to 66: Figure 5);

"a store for storing a current context of the audio queue" – a CurrentPlay register ("current context") holds the record number of the particular Selection_Record for any given moment (column 33, lines 29 to 50; column 30, lines 20 to 66: Figure 5);

"a speech recognition engine for recognizing and registering voice commands, wherein said speech recognition means compares a current audio context with the context associated with a voice command and causes the browser to perform an action based on the comparison" – microphone input device 111 accepts voice commands from a user; player mechanism 103 includes microphone for accepting voice commands ("a speech recognition engine for recognizing and registering voice commands") (column 3, lines 32 to 37; column 12, lines 50 to 58); "registering" voice commands refers to performing the command after the words spoken are recognized; if the user issues a "Go" command, the player will execute a hyperlink jump to the location indicated by the last record "L" in the selection file 351 ("causes the browser to perform an action based on the comparison"); whenever the listener issues a "Return" command, the previously pushed selection file record location is popped from the stack

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390 and returned to the CurrentPlay register 353 (column 35, lines 1 to 15: Figure 5); thus, a voice command is performed to listen to a record associated with a hyperlink based on a record in CurrentPlay register 353 or a Selection_Record in a stack of Selections file 351 ("compare current audio context with the context associated with a voice command").

Regarding independent claim 12, *Logan et al.* discloses a computer implemented method for controlling an audio player with voice commands, comprising:

"building a context-based audio queue based on the contents of markup language page being audibly read by the multi-modal browser to a user" – information available in text form from news sources, libraries, etc. may be converted to compressed audio format by conventional speech synthesis; host server 101 stores web page data 141 which is made available to player 103 by means of the HTML interface 128 ("contents of markup language page being audibly read by the multi-modal browser to the user") (column 5, lines 16 to 45: Figure 1); each voice or text program segment preferably includes a sequencing file which contains the identification of high-lighted passages and hypertext anchors within the program content (column 5, lines 6 to 15: Figure 5); a selections file 351 ("context-based audio queue") is a stack mechanism containing ProgramID numbers of a program segment for hyperlinked material (column 30, lines 20 to 66: Figure 5);

“storing a current context of the audio queue” – a CurrentPlay register (“current context”) holds the record number of the particular Selection_Record for any given moment (column 33, lines 29 to 50: Figure 5);

“recognizing and registering voice commands, wherein the current audio context is compared with a voice command, thereby causing the multi-modal browser to perform an action based on the comparison” – microphone input device 111 accepts voice commands from a user; player mechanism 103 includes microphone for accepting voice commands (“recognizing and registering voice commands”) (column 3, lines 32 to 37; column 12, lines 50 to 58); “registering” voice commands refers to performing the command after the words spoken are recognized; if the user issues a “Go” command, the player will execute a hyperlink jump to the location indicated by the last record “L” in the selection file; whenever the listener issues a “Return” command, the previously pushed selection file record location is popped from the stack 390 and returned to the CurrentPlay register 353 (“thereby causing the multi-modal browser to perform an action”) (column 35, lines 1 to 15: Figure 5); thus, a voice command is performed to listen to a record associated with a hyperlink based on a record in CurrentPlay register 353 or a Selection_Record in a stack of Selections file 351 (“wherein the current audio context is compared with a voice command”).

Regarding claims 2 and 13, *Logan et al.* discloses the Program_Segments record URL field specifies the location file containing the program segment in the file

storage facility 304 (column 17, line 62 to column 18, line 16: Figure 4); thus, the user listens to audio segments as stored resources based on URL's.

Regarding claim 11, *Logan et al.* discloses the host server stores web page data 141 by means of an HTML interface (column 5, lines 32 to 35: Figure 1); HTML web server 129 presents HTML program selection forms (column 8, lines 48 to 60); narrative text is presented in the interactive, multimedia format expressed in the first instance using essentially conventional hypertext markup language (column 43, lines 15 to 60: Figure 7).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3 to 10 and 14 to 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicants' disclosure.

Berstis, Giangarra et al., Uppaluru, Hemphill, Perrone, Loghmani et al., Khan, Brown et al., and Mayer et al. disclose related art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Martin Lerner whose telephone number is (703) 308-

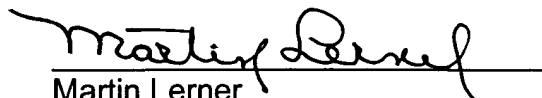
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9064. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday to Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (703) 305-9645. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ML
5/4/04


Martin Lerner
Examiner
Group Art Unit 2654